

Occasionally I am not able to do the raffle, so if you would be able to cover for me please contact me
Berly Brown 07717 077070

Subscriptions for 2025/6

Many thanks to all those who have paid their subscription for 2026. If it had slipped your mind.....Judith will be pleased to accept the payment of £25 at the Speaker Meeting if you wish to pay by cheque or cash, but the easiest way for most members will be by bank transfer.

Thinking of booking a holiday or cruise?

Book any holiday or cruise with Riviera Travel and mention your u3a (at the time of booking) to have 10% of the basic holiday cost donated to the Third Age Trust for the benefit of your local u3a. **Check out the website: www.rivieratravel.co.uk Riviera Travel-Award Winning River Cruises, Escorted Tours and Solo Holidays.**



Thames Valley Network

From Classics to Pop on Zoom on Tuesday 10 February at 10.30am.

Clive Aronson will be demonstrating in words and music how certain classical music converts perfectly to pop and/or is then used in the movies as part of the movie themes. This should be an interesting talk for anyone interested in classical music, pop music or the movies. The fee for the event is £2. Please go to the TVN website www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk for further details and to book.

Editor, Peter Dollman,

Articles for the Newsletter need to be send to peterdollman52@hotmail.com by the 2nd Wednesday of the month

**Please visit our website for news of Ridgeway u3a and TVN events
<http://ridgeway.u3asite.uk>
Registered Charity number 120292**



Ridgeway u3a

Newsletter January 2026

Issue No 195

Coffee and Catch-up

We have tables booked at the Spire & Spoke, Hill Road, Watlington, for Friday 30th January, from 11am.



We look forward to seeing you there.

Tuesday Reading Group

The Tuesday Reading Group didn't meet in December, so no write-up this month.

Jane Kilroy

Monday Book Club

In December we discussed 'Trust' by Hernan Diaz. It provoked quite a bit of discussion. Everyone had read enough to have views on the book, although it is fair to say we all found the unusual structure with 4 separate parts written by different characters



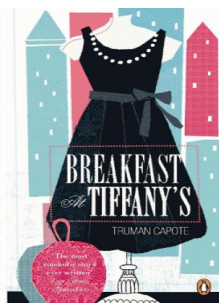
challenging to get to grips with. It needed quite a bit of toing and froing between the sections and a great deal of concentration and work to make sense of it. Some of us gained new insights and explanations from the discussion which hadn't been obvious on a first reading. It may have been an easier read had the sections been re-ordered but it would then have lost some of its quality as a detective story. It might make an interesting re-read once the final revealing last diary section had been read. Would we recommend it to others? Cautiously to a few people but probably not many.

Ann Sibley

Red Lion Book Group Breakfast at Tiffany's

The overwhelming feeling on this story was one of disappointment. The expectation was raised by the

glorious film starring Audrey Hepburn as Holly Golightly. The book is set around 1943 and Holly is a prostitute! Albeit a high class one. We all liked Truman Capote's style of writing and the other shorter stories in the book were intriguing too, but the film was very different from some of the grim reality in the book.



Claire Parsons

Local History Group

To begin our 2026 programme, on Wednesday 21st January we will have a talk by Margot Metcalfe, the Curator of Dorchester Abbey Museum and Chair of the Dorchester Historical Society. Following on from our excellent visit last summer Margot will tell us about "Objects in the Dorchester Museum". This will take place at 2.30 p.m. in the West Room, Watlington, and tea will be provided afterwards. As usual there will be a charge of £3 per person payable at the door.

Sue Carlyle

Last Speakers Meeting

Wakey! Wakey!

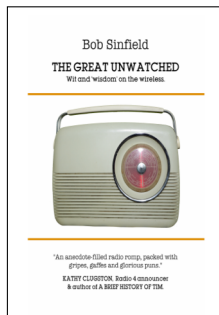
Ridgeway u3a members of a certain age will have recollected Sunday mornings spent listening to Two-way (and sometimes even Three-

Way) Family Favourites on the Light programme, later Radio 2, as the writer and broadcaster Bob Sinfield took us back to the heyday of wireless in his talk 'The Great Unwatched' at our December meeting. As Bob recalled, with some audience participation, Two-Way Family Favourites, with its iconic and melodic theme tune 'With a Song in my Heart', was immediately followed by the strident cry to Wakey! Wakey! from Billy Cotton and his Band so there was little chance of nodding off into Sunday lunch!



Bob Sinfield

Other memorable radio shows which Bob looked back on were Listen with Mother and Children's Favourites – a regular Saturday morning highlight with 'Uncle Mac'. Bob has written for both radio and TV but expressed disappointment that there is no longer the range of programmes on the radio which encourage children not only to listen but also to use their imaginations. He lamented the tendency of production staff to 'fidget', often making changes to programmes for the sake of change. Bob went on to cover the arrival of



Bob Sinfield, The Great Unwatched

pirate radio stations and the first commercial station, the London Broadcasting Company, which went on air in 1973 while builders were still at work on its premises! Later shows on Radio 4 and Jazz FM involved Bob reading letters live on air from listeners commenting on radio programmes they had heard, and also working on 'Hit & Miss', radio's equivalent of 'Juke Box Jury', notably the occasion when Bob voted Chris de Burgh's 'Lady in Red' a miss. The record went on to top the UK charts for 3 weeks and remained in the hit parade for many weeks thereafter – Bob wasn't asked on the show again!

Join us at St Leonard's Church, Watlington at 2.30pm on Tuesday 17 February 2026 when Jeff Evans will be entertaining us with tales and images from the history of sport on TV. Non-members (£4 fee) and members (free) are welcome. Refreshments will be served following the talk.

Ellen Froggatt
(froggattellen@gmail.com)

Bridge Group

This group meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 10.30 to 12.30. If you are interested in joining, please contact the group convenor: Berly Brown at bkb@tinyworld.co.uk or 01491 613251



Lunch Group

The next lunch will be on Wednesday 25th February 2026 at the Red Lion in Chalgrove 115 High St, Chalgrove, Oxford OX44 7SS Meeting at 12 noon for 12.30 pm. If you would like to join us, all details can be found on the notice board.



Sign up and please select your choice from the menus. If you require any further information contact June Waterson

email:
junewaterson@btinternet.com
Mobile: 07720547936

WRITING FOR FUN

It seems like no time at all since we were 'Sitting on the Fence' and now I am looking forward to finding out how we have all been 'Keeping up Appearances.' Prospective members are welcome to attend any of our meeting for a taster session.

Carol Nall,
carolmarynall@gmail.com

Raffle

Thank you to all the members who have supported the raffle throughout the year. Thank you to Rebecca Jonas and the knitting group for their donation to the Xmas raffles.

